

IN THE CLAIMS:

~~Please delete Patent claims at top of page and insert We Claim.~~

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

SWT BI AS 1 (Amended). Drinking straw attachment device for attaching drinking straws to beverage containers, wherein the drinking straws (4) are fed in the form of a drinking straw band (6, 26) which has been provided on a first side with a glue layer (8), the drinking straw attachment device comprising:

a conveyer device (10) for transporting the beverage containers (2) along a conveyer belt;

a feeder device (12) for feeding the drinking straw band (6, 26) to the conveyer belt, wherein the drinking straw band engages a second side on the feeder device (12) which has not been provided with a glue layer;

a cutting device (14) in the area of the feeder device (12) for severing the drinking straw band (6, 26) between two drinking straws (4) each;

at least one pressing device (16a, 16b) for pressing a drinking straw (4) to a foil bag (2b) in such a manner that the drinking straw sticks with the glue layer (8) to the beverage container; and

the feeder device (12) at least at any point where the cutting device (14) severs two drinking straws (4) from each other has a recess which in its height position is matched to the glue layer (8) and whose height extension (h1) corresponds at least to the width (h2) of the glue layer.

2 (Amended). A drinking straw attachment device according to claim 1, wherein the feeder device (12) is a rotor.

3 (Amended). A drinking straw attachment device according to claim 2, wherein the recesses are formed by a first peripheral groove (58) provided at the height of the glue layer (8) on the circumference of the feeder rotor (12).

4 (Amended). A drinking straw attachment device according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the cutting device comprises a knife (14) which can be moved radially to the axis of the feeder rotor (12).

5 (Amended). A drinking straw attachment device according to claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein the feeder device (12) comprises vacuum devices (54) holding the drinking straws (4) by vacuum pressure to the feeder device.

6 (Amended). A drinking straw attachment device according to claim 1, wherein two pressing devices (16a, 16b) are provided which engage in the upper and lower area of the drinking straw (4) to be pressed-on.

7 (Amended). A drinking straw attachment device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the feeder rotor (12) comprises an extension in the axial direction corresponding at least to the height of a drinking straw (4) and where at the height of the pressing devices (16a, 16b) a second and a third peripheral groove (56a, 56b) are provided.

8 (Amended). A drinking straw attachment device as claimed in claim 7, wherein a third pressing device is provided at the height of the first peripheral groove (58).

9 (Amended). A drinking straw attachment device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the pressing devices (16a, 16b) are fingers which can be pivoted around an axis (19) and which press against each of the drinking straws (4) with the end remote from the axis (18) on the corresponding beverage containers (2b).

10 (Amended). A drinking straw attachment device as claimed on claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein the drinking straws (4) are heat-sealed into a protective covering (26) forming the